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# PelhamNEWS

Published by Postmedia

It's all about helping the kids who need it most



BERND FRANKL/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

From now until Jumpstart Day Saturday, May 28, Tom Paolone will be making a pitch for community support for a charity that helps children from less-fortunate families play organized sports. See the full story on Page 18.



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# UPFRONT

## Time to vote for worst roads

**LAURA BARTON**

Special to Postmedia Network

It's voting time again — not for politicians, but for the worst roads in Niagara.

CAA launched its 13th annual Worst Roads campaign last Wednesday and, like for past years, it's up to motorists to vote which roads they think are most in need of improvement.

CAA Niagara spokesman Rick Mauro said the auto agency has

already gotten word that there is an 80-per-cent decline in pothole repair requests this year in Niagara.

But, he said, it's not only about potholes.

The key is to give Niagara residents a voice when it comes to road improvement while also encouraging federal and provincial government to "deepen financial commitment to municipalities," said CAA Niagara president Drew Chamberlain.

"Politicians, we tend to like cutting ribbons and opening up new facilities," said St. Catharines MP Chris Bittle. "But, in doing so, we've left a legacy of massive infrastructure deficits across the region, across the province, across the country."

He said \$120 billion over the next 10 years will be used toward infrastructure improvements and he is working to figure out how to best help Niagara while also addressing what the

upper levels of government are focusing on.

Chamberlain said some of the steps the two levels of government have already taken include dedicating some of the gas tax revenue to infrastructure while directly consulting municipalities to see how the money can be best used.

Mauro said there has been improvement in the region over the years. He said a majority of the roads identified by prior Worst Roads campaigns have been repaired.

The information garnered from the campaign is also important to municipalities.

St. Catharines city Coun. Carlos Garcia called the road information valuable and "particularly important" for Niagara because of how spread out the region is.

He lamented two roads from his city being on last year's top 10 list — Queenston and Ontario streets — and said he hopes none of the city's roads will make the list this year.

Niagara Regional Police Staff Sgt. Ramon Diegido said road repair workers will

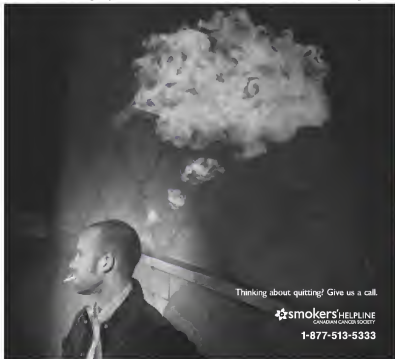
### LAST YEAR'S WORST ROADS

- Niagara  
 1. Dominion Rd., Fort Erie  
 2. Queenston St., St. Catharines  
 3. Lakeshore Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake  
 4. Stanley Ave., Niagara Falls  
 5. Drummond Rd., Niagara Falls  
 Ontario  
 1. Algonquin Blvd. West, Timmins  
 2. Algonquin Blvd. East, Timmins  
 3. Dufferin St., Toronto  
 4. Highway 144, Greater Sudbury  
 5. Carling Ave., Ottawa

make navigating the streets more difficult and it is the responsibility of drivers to be safe.

To vote in the Worst Roads campaign, go to [www.CAAWorstRoads.ca](http://www.CAAWorstRoads.ca) and use #ONWorstRoads to share the campaign on social media.

"Please do not vote for a worst road while driving," Mauro said.



Smoking provided as part by the Ontario Tobacco Settlement, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.



BOB THYNG/CTV22/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Drew Chamberlain, president and chief executive officer of CAA Niagara, is pictured at the launch of the annual Worst Roads campaign at CAA offices in Thorold.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Council sets decision day

WAYNE CAMPBELL

Special to Postmedia Network

Pelham town council will say it's a go or no-go for a \$36.2-million multi-use community centre later this month.

At its regular meeting April 4, council approved the project in principle.

Then by a 6-1 recorded vote, council set up a special council meeting for April 25 to hear presentations from the public and receive a staff report with appropriate documents to set the project in motion — if council ultimately decides to go ahead with one of the municipality's largest-ever projects.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said "it is important we don't lose the building season."

He referred to a staff report that stated a decision made later than the beginning of May could affect tendering and start of preliminary construction in the fall.

The centre will include a 1,100-seat, twin-pad arena plus two gyms, a multi-use community room and walking track.

Ward 1 Coun. Marvin Junkin voted against the meeting saying he did not think the public has been adequately consulted on the plan.

The deadline, he said, was over dramatic. Council would wait a few more weeks.



CONTRIBUTED ARTWORK

"People are angry. They feel they have not been involved in this project."

Voting in favour were Augustyn and Couns. Gary Accursi, John Durley, Catherine King, Peter Papp and Richard Rybiak.

The April 25 meeting will come after two open houses on the project, both taking place at Fonhill and Fenwick fire halls on Saturday, April 16.

Project design consultants, the building manager and town staff at the open houses will answer questions about the complex's design, construction process and financing.

The April 25 meeting will be held at a venue yet to be selected — larger than Pelham town council chambers because a large crowd is expected.

A similar presentation was made to town council on March 22. Council's approval in principle last Monday came after receiving the March 22 report.

Recordings of that meeting and information from the presentation are on the town's website. It's part of an information blitz by the town.

It has displays about the complex at Pelham Arena, town hall and Pelham Public

Library branches. Councillors and town staff are speaking about it to clubs and groups.

Accursi made the motion for the April 25 meeting and suggested limiting the time and number of speakers on a similar topic.

"We don't need 50 hockey moms telling us how great (a new arena would be)," he said, or "a similar number of taxpayers" saying it wouldn't.

He later clarified himself by saying he meant to limit the number of similar speakers to ensure all views are presented.

"I don't want to be slammed in the press about muzzling people."

Rybiak said approval in principle shows the will of council to move to the next step.

The April 25 meeting comes after the open houses to give people time to get information, he said. He supported the use of a larger facility than the council chamber.

Durley urged people to come to the open houses to get information from the experts who will be there.

Papp said approval in principle sends a message to higher levels of government where "intense lobbying" is under way to attract money for a community centre.

"We are saying we are seri-

ous."

King said she was happy to support moving the process along.

"We have addressed concerns about finances" and what the structure will look like.

The mayor said the town has been working on a community centre concept "for years and years." He urged residents to become informed through the town's website, open houses or displays.

The town is not only shovel-ready, "we are investment ready," Augustyn said.

The municipality continues to seek funding from upper levels of government.

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Sunday 11am - 4pm

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# Homeless count a good start



**GRANT  
LAFLECHE**

The first real feature I wrote was about the homeless living in the shadows of the hustle and bustle of downtown St. Catharines back in 1998. Poverty then was just as serious a problem as it is now, but it wasn't a front burning political issue.

Times, fortunately, have changed. It's been gratifying to see the Niagara community increasingly take the issues of poverty and homelessness seriously. It's even one of the central ideas of St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik's administration, operating under the umbrella of his "compassionate city" concept.

There has been a steadily growing recognition that raising up the poorest in our community is ultimately better for the social and economic health of the entire city.

Still, we've never really had a clear picture of how widespread some of the issues are.

We can get some idea by looking at

employment rates and income levels.

Niagara Region's Niagara Prosperity Initiative uses available statistical data to map the region's economic health, showing us where the poorest and wealthiest neighbourhoods are.

But when it comes to homelessness, or how many people use shelters or emergency food programs, the data has always been soft.

The Out of the Cold program, which provides meals and overnight shelter to help who can't, need it, can't provide absolute numbers on its client base, which is often a moving target. Co-ordinators know how many overnight stays there are in a given year, for instance, but that data doesn't filter for repeat customers versus those who used the shelter only once.

Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold has more specific data on its number of clients, but that information doesn't capture those who live on the streets.

The RAFT knows the number of teens it serves and provides shelter to, but how many youth are couch surfing across the region isn't known.

This all gets more complicated because the truly homeless can be difficult to track and often have to deal with mental health issues which can prevent them

from turning to those agencies that could help them.

As a result, service agencies and governments are forced to make the best educated guesses they can.

Crafting good policy to grapple with any issue becomes problematic if the data is lousy. Without solid information you don't know the extent of the problem and you can't measure the effectiveness of a particular program.

Fortunately, that is starting to change.

Using \$44,000 in federal funding — part of an effort to build a national count of Canada's homeless — the Region conducted a head count of the unsheltered homeless (those living on the streets) and the sheltered (those staying in emergency shelters, including women's shelters).

Volunteers did a count last Tuesday, and brought along surveys they asked those on the street or at a shelter to complete.

The count will not be definitive. Katie Macroetta, the Region's manager of homeless, housing and hostels, said the count won't include everyone who could be classified as homeless. It won't, for instance, capture couch surfers.

Macroetta also said that some of the homeless, sheltered or unsheltered, declined to fill out the survey.

These caveats aside, the count will provide the first and most accurate snapshot of our homeless population.

The results are expected to be made public in late April or early May, Macroetta said.

Knowing how many people are homeless, yet they ended up there and where they are will help shelters, outreach workers and service agencies alike.

However, for the data to be truly useful, the count cannot be a one-time event.

Given that the homeless population can be difficult to track, and the natural reticence of some to complete a survey, the more times the count is done, the more accurate of a picture the data will paint.

We need to know how the demographics of our homeless population are shifting over time to understand if services and programs are working well.

So while we should thank the federal government for funding the count, and the region for conducting it, this initiative requires long term support if the information it gathers is to be of any real use.

Glafleche@postmedia.com

Twitter: @granttrants

# Community Centre plan approved in principle

**DAVE AUGUSTYN**

Special to Postmedia Network

At our regular meeting last week, Council received all the information about the Pelham Community Centre that was presented during our special March 22 meeting. That special meeting last month included presentations from the architect with the design and elevations, the construction manager reviewing the construction costs, and staff with details about financing.

The architects presented an elegant yet very efficient design that includes adaptable and multi-purpose community spaces, a double-gymnasium (divisible into four sections), a double arena (main arena with 1,600 seats; second with less than 100 seats), an indoor walking/running track, a concession area, change rooms and washrooms, and an atrium/lobby area.

Based on an item-by-item-review of the design and informed by their experience on more than 30 community facilities, Ball Construction estimated the construction costs at \$32.5 million. The construction managers also pegged total project costs — including design, furniture, fixtures, permits — at \$36.2 million.

Staff stated that the Community Centre will cost \$46.67 for an average residential property (assessed at \$309,200) or 3.44% on the 2016 Pelham portion of the tax bill only. That amount will allow the Town to purchase a 30-year debenture of \$9.07 million from Infrastructure Ontario. Since Council already approved project funds in our 2016 Budget, the Town will not require any further property tax increases to build the centre beyond this year. The Town will fund the remaining costs through development charges. East Fonthill land sales, and fundraising.

Last Monday, Council received all this

information and approved the plans "in principle." We also directed staff to tender for the design/build of the electrical and mechanical components of the facility — subject to final approval by council — so that we might not hold up the project.

Finally, council also directed staff to organize a public meeting on April 25 so that people wishing to make formal presentations about the plan can do so. Council will consider those presentations and a comprehensive staff report so that we might make a final determination that night.

So that you and your friends and neighbours can become better informed about the project, the Town will be hosting open houses on Saturday, April 16 Fire Station No. 2 (Fenwick) from 10 a.m. to noon and at Fire Station No. 1 (Fonthill) from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The architect, construction manager, town staff, volunteer architectural design advisory

committee members and councillors will all be available at the open houses to speak with you.

In the meantime, I would encourage you to check out the Town's recently revised webpage about the Community Centre at [www.pelham.ca/community-centre](http://www.pelham.ca/community-centre). The page includes information about the plans, the costs, the financing, and answers to questions that people may have about the project. The page also includes the views of the volunteer members of the Architectural Design Advisory Committee. Please check it out at your convenience so that you may know more about this very important and exciting project for our Town.

You may contact Mayor Dave at [mayordave@pelham.ca](mailto:mayordave@pelham.ca) or read past columns at [www.pelhamnewsyours.blogspot.com](http://www.pelhamnewsyours.blogspot.com).

## Lineup announced for bandshell concerts

Thursday night concerts at the Fonthill bandshell received a shout-out from Mayor Dave Augustyn in his regular report to council Monday night.

The 7 p.m. concert series begins its 11th season on June 16 and continues to Sept. 8.

The 13 performances include tributes to Pete Seger, Glen Campbell, Fleetwood Mac and the Rat Pack as well as Canadian music, jazz, R&B and a Cape Breton kitchen party.

Featured performers are Juno Award winners July Black on July 14 and Alex Cuba, on Aug. 11.

More details are at [www.fonthillbandshell.com](http://www.fonthillbandshell.com).

## Flag promotes Special Olympics

A Special Olympics flag will fly at Pelham Town Hall on April 18 for Special Olympics Day.

Residents are invited to sign a second one as part of a promotion for the Special Olympic School Champion Games in Durham, Ont., June 1 to 3.

Knights of Columbus member Ivan Roden explained to town council Monday the signature flags part of a travelling event for the games. The flags and a visitors book, carried by the Knights on Bikes, will make stops in Pelham, Welland, Port Colborne and at Niagara College.

The signed flags from six Ontario regions will be shown at the Special Olympics games to support

athletes. The first Special Olympics games were held in 1968 in Chicago.

## Pelham wants change to OMB procedure

Pelham supported a resolution from Richmond Hill calling for a change in Ontario Municipal Board process.

It wants more time for municipalities to negotiate solutions with an applicant before an appeal is launched.

The province must recognize the rights of the municipality to serve the interests of its citizens by following its official plan and other zoning matters, said Richmond Hill.

Ward 3 Coun. John Durley, who made a motion to support the resolution, said "the province must do something about the OMB."

## Summerfest committee appointed

Town council appointed members of the Pelham Summerfest committee to a term ending Nov. 30, 2018.

The committee organizes the annual four-day celebration, which this year runs Thursday, July 17 to Sunday, July 24.

Committee members are John Wink and Candy Ashbee from the Pelham Business Association, Bill Gibson of the Pelham Active Transportation Committee, Matthew Leask, Sofia Labriciosa of the mayor's youth advisory council and Michelle Stewart.

Coun. Gary Accursi represents

town council and recreation director Vickie vanRavenswaay town staff.

The festival began as a one-day event in 2011. This year the Sunday program has been extended to include a classic car show.

## Scenic drives being mapped out for Niagara visitors

Regional Coun. Brian Batt will check maps of proposed scenic tours of Niagara.

In making his regular report to town council Monday, he mentioned Niagara Region is laying out scenic drives to encourage visitors to go

beyond Niagara Falls.

Ward 2 Coun. Gary Accursi said Pelham has some very beautiful scenery and agricultural attractions. He wondered why local municipalities were not consulted during preparation of the maps.

## Pelham bantam champs recognized

Town council honoured its first Ontario Minor Hockey Association Bantam BB championship team at its Monday night meeting.

Mayor Dave Augustyn, as he and deputy mayor Marvin Junkin handed out certificates, said the Pelham Panthers "came together" in their final game at Pelham Arena.

Team members are Michael Rossi, Evan Macpherson, Mitchell Carmichael, Josh Glen, Lucas Fast, Derian Free, Campbell Weld, Matthew DiRaddo, Joey Natalie, Liam Sodik, Connor Walton, Alex Repar, Ethan Mergl, Garrett Jackson, Trent Glenney and Tyler D'Angelo.

Head coach is John Carmichael, assistant coach is Mike Repar, trainer Brent Mergl and manager is Glen Watson. E.S. Fox Ltd. sponsored the team.

— Wayne Campbell, special to The Tribune

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## Turtle smuggler fined \$25,000

Postmedia Network

A Toronto seafood supplier has been fined \$25,000 after he was nabbed smuggling 40 live turtles into Canada at the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Jie Hua Shen, owner of Marine Seafood Inc., pleaded guilty March 26 in a St. Catharines court to illegally importing turtles into Canada, a violation under the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act.

In December 2013, Environment and Climate Change Canada, with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, launched a joint forces operation focusing on the trade in Florida soft-shell turtles.

The operation resulted in the seizure of 40 live Florida soft-shell turtles, which were smuggled into Canada through Shen's company.

According to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Florida soft-shell turtles are prized for their meat, which has led to a decline in their numbers.

In response, Florida has banned the commercial fishing of the turtles.

The turtles seized in this case were found to have fish hooks buried in their throats.

In May 2015, Shen was found guilty in federal court for contraventions under the Customs Act and fined \$18,000 for smuggling turtles.

In an unrelated case, a Windsor resident was fined \$3,500 in February after being convicted of smuggling turtles across the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge. In that case, the man had more than three dozen turtles strapped to his legs.

BERND FRANKE  
Postmedia Network

Imagine sweeping up conflict in the boxing ring after knocking out your opponent in a title fight.

Though the stakes weren't quite that high, that scenario pretty much sums up Nathan Chown's roller-coaster Sunday. After winning the Tour of Pelham for the fourth time in the bicycle race's 11-year history, he celebrated by going back over part of the 35-kilometre circuit to remove course markers.

In addition to competing in the event, the 43-year-old Niagara Health System dietitian from St. Catharines helped organize the race. Chown and fellow organizers Dan Dakin, Jeff Moote and Jamie Schuman make up Team CF, which got the Tour of Pelham up and running after a four-year hiatus and intends to hold more races in the fall.

Chown said Team CF plans to donate all proceeds from the races to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, "once we start making some money."

That didn't happen Sunday. Only 90 riders registered, down from the break-even point of 110 and well under the capacity of 200.

"We're a little disappointed, but it takes awhile to build an event back up," said Moote, who had been expecting 70 to 100 riders for the first Tour of Pelham since 2011.

"We don't do this to make money, but we don't want to lose money either."

Organizers are confident the competition will again be circled on the calendars of racers within two to three years.

"It will take some time to build interest," Moote said.

Chown, who began cycling competitively in 2002, found a course that took riders on



Nathan Chown, foreground, of St. Catharines and Erik Box of Milton paced a 90-rider field for much of Sunday's 35-kilometre Tour of Pelham bicycle race.

BERND FRANKE/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

paved roads but also over gravel and along muddy trails particularly challenging.

"This was the hardest course event," he said. "The worst part were the trials. It wasn't muddy, it was like riding on ice."

Chown spun out once but so did runnerup Erik Box of Milton who trailed the pacesetter by 15 seconds across

the finish line at Merrittville Speedway on Holland Road.

"We both fell at about the same time, in the same place, so I didn't lose too much ground," said Chown, who rowed at Brock University and University of British Columbia before making cycling his No. 1 activity.

Before he he cycled to cross train for rowing, but

switched sports after he failed to make the Canadian national rowing team at Olympic trials in 1998.

"I made the B team but I saw what it took to get to the next level, so I decided to cycle instead, get a job, and get on with my life," Chown said.

He finished the race in 1:08. Box in 1:08:15 and Nick Priesen from Heidelberg,

Ont., south of Kitchener, 1:08:35.

Chown said he used course knowledge to his advantage to pace the pack Sunday.

"I know how fast I can go in those areas," he said. "You just make it hard for people to get back on your wheel."

Bfranke@postmedia.com

## Digging Roots

Eclectic roots and blues ranging from whispery intimacies to smoky wails

APR 16

## Ruthie Foster with Harrison Kennedy

A blend of soul, blues, rock, folk and gospel

APR 19

## Steven Wright

The laid-back king of one-liners

APR 25

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## About the Pelham Community Centre



“In 2014, Town Council appointed a 15-person committee with representation from community groups and citizens across Pelham to solicit input and provide advice about the design elements and development of a multi-faceted Community Centre. We believe our municipal Centre will represent the very fabric and spirit of our Pelham community for years to come and serve as a centric gathering place of activity for all age groups.”

- John S. Nicol,  
Chair, Architectural Design Advisory Committee

“The Centre’s multi-purpose space is brimming with cultural possibility! It’s an intimate space, perfect for programming drama, theatre, improvisation and music classes for all ages and abilities, which can culminate in a shared performance or recital. This venue, nestled on the second floor in the heart of our Community Centre, will inspire our community to greater cultural heights and celebrate who we are!”

- Jen Benson,  
Performing Arts Representative



“Pelham seniors have given input throughout the process of developing our Community Centre. We look forward to wellness activities, social, cultural, recreational and informational opportunities, as well as a place to gather in a respectful, accessible and welcoming environment. Let’s ensure that the Community Centre is a major contributor to our quality of life and that of our families.”

- Gail Hilyer,  
Chair, Seniors Advisory Committee

“The new Pelham Community Centre will provide a much-needed space for all generations to come and celebrate our sports and cultural activities. It will allow our hockey organizations to host prestigious events to showcase our Town and it will be the home where we can all cheer our champions at every level of play.”

- Victoria Morrissey,  
President, Pelham Minor Hockey Assoc.



“Service clubs in the community look forward to the tremendous opportunities that will be afforded to Pelham’s varied volunteer groups. The new options for conducting public events and fund-raisers to benefit the youth and seniors in Pelham, previously unavailable to us, are increased tenfold.”

- Doug Freeland,  
Service Clubs Representative



## Open Houses - Saturday, April 16, 2016

Have questions about the Community Centre? Check out display boards and speak to the Architect, Construction Manager, Town Staff, volunteer Architectural Design Advisory Committee members and Councillors at:

Fire Station #2 (766 Welland Rd.) 10 AM to Noon

Fire Station #1 (177 Hwy #20) 2 to 4 PM

## Public Meeting - Monday, April 25, 2016

6:30 PM | Old Pelham Town Hall (491 Canboro Road)

Pre-register by noon on Thursday, April 21, 2016, to formally present to Council at this meeting about the Community Centre. Find forms at [www.pelham.ca/community-centre](http://www.pelham.ca/community-centre) or at Town Hall (20 Pelham Town Square).

Unable to attend? Submit a signed letter addressed to Council by noon on April 21, 2016 for inclusion on the agenda. Letters may be emailed ([nbozzato@pelham.ca](mailto:nbozzato@pelham.ca)), mailed or hand-delivered to Town Hall to the Town Clerk’s attention.

[pelham.ca/community-centre](http://pelham.ca/community-centre)

# Social media a platform for rabies

CERENA GATIL  
SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA

Niagara's health department is turning to social media to spread the word about rabies.

It was previously reported that in February a raccoon from West Lincoln had tested positive for rabies — the first such incident in the region in a quarter-century.

Just beyond the Niagara border, though, officials are facing a bigger than normal fight against rabies.

Hamilton said last week

there are now 65 cases of rabies in both raccoons and skunks in the city.

It says 46 raccoons and 19 skunks have tested positive for the virus since the first case was reported in early December.

Hamilton public health says skunks are a common rabies vector and were expected to be found in areas where raccoons tested positive for the virus.

It says five other raccoons have tested positive for rabies — four in nearby

Haldimand-Norfolk and the one in the Niagara region — bringing the total in the province to 70.

Raccoon rabies hasn't been seen in Ontario since 2005 and its re-emergence in early December only came to light after two dogs got into a fight with a sick raccoon in the back of an animal services van.

That raccoon tested positive for rabies and the dogs were held in quarantine after being inoculated against the virus.

"With raccoons, there's been bad rabies in the past in Niagara," said Niagara Region environmental health manager Peter Jekel. "With other ground animals, such as cats and dogs, we haven't had anything bad in Niagara in a long time."

"May is Rabies Awareness Month, so around that time we will be ramping up our social media and setting up events."

Kevin Strooband, executive director of Lincoln County Humane Society,

said it is only "just a matter of time" until rabies could spread throughout other Niagara communities.

"There are a lot of sick raccoons in Grimsby, but most of them have distemper, which is a viral infection," Strooband said.

Niagara Region Public Health advises anyone has been bitten by or come in contact with an animal suspected as a rabies carrier to call 1-888-905-6074.

— with files from the Canadian Press



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## \$500,000 fine levied for heated floor death

**BILL SAWCHUK**  
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A Niagara Falls contractor has been fined a record \$537,500 in the death of an elderly Niagara-on-the-Lake man.

A judge handed Pro-Teck Electric the largest financial penalty in the history of electrical contractor licensing in Ontario in a Niagara Falls courtroom last week.

Pro-Teck Electric pleaded guilty in April 2015 to multiple charges, including leaving an unsafe electrical condition, failure to procure connection authorization before use, and failure to apply for an electrical inspection.

The phone number listed for the company was not in service Tuesday.

The Electrical Safety Authority said that on April 5, 2014, an elderly man fell on the floor in the bathroom of his Niagara-on-the-Lake home where Pro-Teck Electric had installed an in-floor heating system.

The man suffered second- and third-degree burns from the overheated floor and died of his injuries weeks later in hospital.

An Electrical Safety Authority investigation revealed the floor system's heat sensor had not been installed, and the heating system was wired to an incor-

rect voltage level.

"We are terribly saddened by this incident, and it underscores how dangerous electrical work can be when it's not done properly," said Scott Saint, chief safety officer for the Electrical Safety Authority.

According to its website, the ESA is mandated by the government of Ontario to enhance public electrical safety in the province as a safety regulator and advocate.

"We aggressively pursue those who operate outside the law, and we're pleased the court has delivered a strong message that if you break the law and put public safety at risk, there will be serious consequences," Saint said.

A spokesperson said the ESA is still analyzing the court's rationale for the ruling and has ordered the transcripts.

"It is, however, clear that the work was done incorrectly and an application for inspection was not filed with ESA, which is the law in Ontario," the spokesperson said.

Under the Provincial Offences Act, all fines include a 25 per cent victim surcharge that goes to a provincial fund to assist victims of crime.

bsawchuk@postmedia.ca

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# Fenwick shooting still under investigation

**BILL SAWCHUK**  
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

An armed standoff in Fenwick six months ago that sent two Niagara Regional Police officers and a suspect to hospital is still being probed by the province's Special Investigations Unit.

"The investigation is ongoing," SIU spokesman Jason Gennaro said.

Pelham firefighters and NRP officers responded to reports of a suicidal man at Canboro Gardens, 704 Canboro Rd. in Fenwick, on Oct. 8.

Shortly after 8 p.m., Constables Neal Ridley and Jake Braun were both shot, as was the suspect identified by neighbours as 29-year-old Corey Richardson.

Richardson was originally listed in serious condition but is now out of the hospital, Gennaro said.

"The man was shot," Gennaro confirmed.

Officers Ridley and Braun have returned to work.

Gennaro wouldn't comment on possible charges

against the suspect.

"The NRP would be responsible for laying those charges if warranted," he said.

Const. Phil Gavin said the NRP is prohibited from releasing information or commenting on the investigation while it is in the hands of the SIU.

The SIU investigates incidents involving police where there has been death, serious injury or allegations of sexual assault.

Depending on the evidence, the SIU has a number of options. An officer can be criminally charged, if warranted, or the SIU can close the file without charges laid.

It reports results of its investigations to the attorney general's office, which takes over the file. It can take months before the investigations are complete, Gennaro said.

A variety of factors influence the timing and closure of cases, including the sheer volume of investigations across the province as well as



A Niagara Regional Police officer is tended to after being shot at a Fenwick apartment building on Oct. 10, 2015.

their complexity, he said.

While an investigation is ongoing, the SIU rarely offers any more than cursory details of its work, which includes gathering and assessing facts surrounding the incident. The SIU believes too much information may jeopardize

the integrity of the process, Gennaro said.

"There are a number of reasons we don't lay the facts out on the table right away," he said. "In the first days and weeks of an investigation, we are trying to get all of the facts straight. That can take

time, as can completing the interviews.

"We don't want any information that there may be any effect or influence the memories of potential witnesses. We want witnesses to give us as much information as they can independently of what

we have said.

"The object is to get to the truth. It isn't about hiding anything."

Also Tuesday, the SIU reported it is undertaking a new investigation in Niagara involving the death of a 93-year-old man after his body was pulled from the Welland Recreational Canal on April 1.

The SIU reported that just before 8 p.m. on March 31, NRP officers received a 911 call about a man at the canal. Officers responded and engaged with the man.

Sometime before noon on April 1, the body of the man was found in the water at the canal near Welland's Merritt Park Amphitheatre.

The SIU reported it had designated two subject officers as part of this investigation.

Four investigators and one forensic investigator have been assigned to the incident.

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# Landlord accused of secretly filming female tenant

ALISON LANGLEY  
POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A Niagara Falls woman said she was horrified when she went on her landlord's laptop computer and found a video of herself sleeping.

"I just started clicking on

things," she said Tuesday, in Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines on Tuesday.

"On the second or third click there was a video. It showed the kitchen floor, then the light being turned on in the bedroom and the camera coming up to me in the bed ... then I turned

it off."

The woman's former landlord pleaded not guilty Tuesday to a charge of criminal voyeurism, which involves someone who surreptitiously observes or makes a visual recording of a person who is in circumstances that give rise to a

reasonable expectation of privacy.

The names of the parties involved are not being published, as the woman's identity is protected under a court-ordered publication ban.

The 35-year-old woman told assistant Crown attor-

ney Graeme Leach she woke in the early hours of Aug. 11, 2014, to find the man standing over her and lifting up a blanket at her waist level.

She confronted the man, who lived in the basement of the home, and he left the residence.

The following day, the woman went downstairs and on a hunch went on the man's laptop and found the video. She testified the video was not from the time she woke to find him in the bedroom.

Under cross-examination by defence counsel Joseph LoConte, the woman said she never saw the man upload the video onto his laptop.

Court heard the woman and the defendant had been good friends for many years and he had offered his home to her, her common-law spouse and her son.

The family had been living with the defendant for about seven years.

She testified she paid him rent but she would sometimes be late with the payment. She said the defendant also helped her to get a line of credit and co-signed on a vehicle.

"But that doesn't mean he can film me or be in my bedroom," she said.

She refuted a suggestion by LoConte that his client was in the bedroom that night because he was looking for paper towels.

She also disagreed with a suggestion by the lawyer that the man had asked the family to leave shortly before the incident is said to have occurred because he was "tired of financing your life."

The trial continues April 18 in St. Catharines.

alison.langley@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @alisonlangley

## NOTICE OF A PROPOSED CHANGE TO A RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT

**Project Name:** Niagara Region Wind Farm

**Renewable Energy Approval:** #353-2HWR2R

**IESO Reference Number:** F-001580-WIN-130-601

**Project Location:** The Niagara Region Wind Farm (the "Project") is located within Haldimand County and Niagara Region (including the Townships of Wainfleet and West Lincoln and the Town of Lincoln). The electrical interconnection components are located within the Town of Lincoln and the Township of West Lincoln, in Niagara Region, and in Haldimand County in southern Ontario.

**Dated At:** Haldimand County and Niagara Region on this 6th day of April, 2016.

Niagara Region Wind Corporation ("NRWC") has issued a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) on November 6, 2014 in respect of the Niagara Region Wind Farm Project (the "Project"). Information with respect to the decision on this project can be viewed on the Environmental Registry by searching EBR #012-0613. An amendment to the existing approval for an administrative change to the Project was issued by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) on November 23, 2015; to acknowledge the change in ownership of the Project from "Niagara Region Wind Corporation" to "FWRN LP", as FWRN LP has purchased the Project (EBR #012-5532).

FWRN LP is proposing to make changes to the project and the project itself is subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act of Ontario (Act) Part V.0.1, and Ontario Regulation 359/09 (regulations). In accordance with Section 16.0.1 of the Regulation this notice is being distributed to make the public aware of proposed changes to the project.

### Project Description and Proposed Change

Pursuant to the Act and Regulation, the facility, in respect of which the REA was issued, is considered to be a Class A Wind Facility. An application has been made to the MOECC to change the project and alter the terms and conditions of the existing REA. The proposed change consists of project design changes to the REA Application and includes:

1. Meteorological (MET) towers: the installation of three (3) new MET towers to monitor wind speed, wind direction, and other atmospheric parameters; in order to satisfy Independent Electricity System Operator telemetry and forecasting requirements; and;
2. Transmission Line: the addition of an alternate transmission route to avoid pole placement along the Hwy 3 Ministry of Transportation (MTO) right of way to address recent comments received from the MTO.

### Documents for Public Inspection

FWRN LP has developed a Modification document which summarizes the proposed change. A written copy of the Modification document is currently available for public inspection on the project website (<http://www.nrwc.ca/projectdocuments/>). Copies of the final REA documents also remain available on the project website.

### Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project, or to communicate questions or comments, please contact:

Project Email Address: [info@nrwc.ca](mailto:info@nrwc.ca)

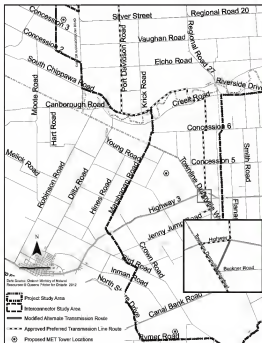
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Shilah Berman, Project Coordinator  
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J.A. (AJ) Leggett, BA, MCIP, RPP, Project Manager  
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Information will be collected and used in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This information will be used to assist FWRN LP in meeting applicable environmental approval requirements. This material will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Unless indicated otherwise, personal information and all comments will become part of the public record and publicly released as part of project documentation.



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# Home Show Spotlight

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# Bradley likes stricter fundraising rules

**BILL SAWCHUK**  
Postmedia Network

As Premier Kathleen Wynne moves forward to reform the political donation circuit in Ontario, St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley said most members will welcome the changes.

"Frankly, I think all members of the legislature are looking forward to it," said Brad-

ley, a veteran Liberal politician who has held numerous cabinet portfolios over his career.

"I know the government has been looking at it for some months and trying to determine how best to make the changes."

Bradley said legislation banning corporate and union donations would come in the spring, with further changes likely in the fall.

There were reports the Liberals had set fundraising quotas of up to \$500,000 each for cabinet ministers, who often turned to \$5,000-a-plate private dinners and receptions with donors and corporations.

"There is full disclosure already, but people are looking at stricter rules for the parties to follow," Bradley said. "Many jurisdictions have gone to fully public financing of cam-

paigns, and I guess you could say in the best of all worlds that would happen, but I don't think the public is prepared to accept that."

Bradley said he wasn't aware of quotas for cabinet ministers.

"I never had an official quote," he said. "They simply asked all members of the caucus to participate in fundraising for the party and their own

local association."

"The opposition did the same, and when they were in government."

The Progressive Conservatives have accused the Liberals of letting lobbyists who want government business buy access to cabinet ministers. They also dismissed Liberal calls to cancel their planned party fundraisers, saying they aren't in a position to form public policy.

"People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones," Bradley said.

"I see the leader of the Opposition held one at \$10,000 a person. If that is not going to influence any of his policies, then he would logically believe that all the other parties that might undertake fundraising activities are not influenced by it as well."

"You can't buy the Conservative caucus. You can't buy the NDP caucus, and you can't buy the Liberal caucus."

Bradley conceded the optics were bad, and that appearance is important in politics.

"You don't want the appearance that anyone has been influenced one way or the other by very large donations from individuals, the corporate sector or the union sector."

Progressive Conservative MPP Tim Hudak of Niagara-West Glanbrook said he would like to see third-party advertising during election campaigns eliminated.

"We look across the border, and we see the Political Action Committees (PACs) spending hundreds of millions of dollars," he said. "We see complaints about that, but in Ontario we have had a one-



**All parties need to work together to look at the changes that need to be made to take big money out of politics. Unfortunately, this government has continued to show it's those who can write the biggest cheque that can get the largest amount of access."**

Niagara Falls NDP MPP  
Wayne Gates

sided PAC called the Working Family Coalition.

"My two predecessors, as well as myself, were their targets to elect a Liberal government, and in turn they get to rent the government for four years."

"I think no matter where you are on the political spectrum, when you have a group of public sector unions that spends more than any political party to influence the government and get their way, that corrupts democracy."

The NDP is pressing the Liberals to have Ontario's chief electoral officers lead the review of political fundraising rules.

"Big money should never dictate politics, and we need to ensure that every single voter's voice is heard — not just those with deep pockets," Niagara Falls NDP MPP Wayne Gates said. "No political party should ever sell access to their ministers."

He said the premier and her cabinet ministers have to understand they are responsible to the people who elected them, and not to insiders who can afford tickets to high-priced dinners.

"All parties need to work together to look at the changes that need to be made to take big money out of politics," Gates said. "Unfortunately, this government has continued to show it's those who can write the biggest cheque that can get the largest amount of access."



Bradley



Hudak



Gates



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# A Jumpstart on helping children play sports



**BERND FRANKE**  
Postmedia Network

Pay no mind to Mother Nature's belated April Fool's joke. All the snow is covering is the undeniable fact this is opening week of the Major League Baseball season.

For Tom Paolone, chairman of the Welland National Charity, that can only mean one thing: convincing the community to go to bat for children whose families are unable to afford organized sports.

Between now and Jumpstart Day Saturday, May 28, he will be busy canvassing businesses and sports organizations in Welland and Pelham.

Paolone, who has spearheaded the Welland chapter since the national charity's inception, hopes to top the \$94,413 the one-day event raised last year.

While that total is tops among Canadian Tire stores in the area, and the most Jumpstart has raised locally in its six-year history, the figure that means so much more to Paolone is 1,085.

That's the number of boys and girls who, thanks to the generosity of Jumpstart supporters, got to participate in an activity of their choice last year.

"It's all about the kids who, through no fault of their own, can't afford to play sports," he said.

"Sports today is on the bottom of the list of family priorities. You gotta pay the mortgage, you have to pay the utilities..."

In Welland applications for subsidies, which are based on need, are administered through the Hope Centre. There's a \$350 per child limit, but no restriction on the number of requests from a family.

Paolone said Jumpstart doesn't play favourites when it comes to what activity a child gets to enjoy.

"It's any sport of their choosing, and it always has been," he



**It's any sport of their choosing, and it always has been. We would never deny a child the chance to play a sport."**

Tom Paolone

said. "We would never deny a child the chance to play a sport."

"We try to make sure every kid gets the chance to get out of the house, get away from the TV and do something, jumpstart and participation go together."

With the playoffs yet to get underway, it's too early to say which Welland NHLers will come out and play ball hockey with their young fans on Jumpstart Day.

"We won't know about that until later. This is just to let the community know I'm going to be hanging on doors," Paolone said.

"It might seem a little early, but it takes a while to get everything into place."

Actually, the Welland native and retired GDX employee has been at it since February. He's already lined up Ball Hockey International, the Niagara Ice-Dogs and the Welland Professional Fire Fighters Association for another year.

"I can't say enough about the firefighters, they always come through for us," said Paolone, pointing out about \$5,000 was raised in a boot drive last year.

New to Jumpstart will be the Niagara River Lions. Grace Lokole, a Notre Dame graduate and the expansion National Basketball League of Canada team's head coach, has agreed to participate, as will some of the players if the date doesn't conflict with the playoffs.

From now until Jumpstart Day Saturday, May 28, Tom Paolone will be making a pitch for community support for a charity that helps children from less-fortunate families play organized sports.

**BERND FRANKE/POSTMEDIA NETWORK**

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# horse share program advanced

RAY SPITERI

Postmedia Network

Have you ever wanted to own a race horse, but not be saddled with all the related expenses?

Well here's your chance.

Niagara's Francine Villeneuve, along with her managing partner Amanda Roxborough, have created a syndicate allowing horse-racing fans to become an owner in the world of thoroughbred horse racing.

Called Sport of Queens Racing, Villeneuve and Roxborough offer a 200-share investment in a horse, at the cost of \$230 per share. Once all shares are sold, they will purchase a horse for the syndicate. Once a horse is purchased, there's a \$200 annual fee for each share purchased. Those interested can purchase as many shares as they want.

"That is all you pay. There are no bills," That's your whole investment," said Villeneuve, who was a jockey for 25 years, including at Fort Erie from the mid-1990s until 2012.

"Once they purchase a share, you are a member. You are entitled to come and visit the horse on the back side. You'll have a section made up specially for all members to watch their horse when it runs. We will send out weekly updates on the horse's train-



MIKE DRABATIS/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara's Francine Villeneuve and her managing partner have created a syndicate Sport of Queens Racing, allowing horse-racing fans to become an owner in the world of thoroughbred horse racing. Villeneuve was a prominent jockey for 25 years, including to have a long career at Fort Erie Race Track.

ing and overall well-being. We have monthly meetings where we will educate newcomers to the industry, and have guest speakers, racing celebrities."

She said 200 shares is the "magic number where it will work financially for us to make it work without anyone paying extra bills."

Villeneuve had a lucrative jockey career, always prominent in the standings.

"I had a goal to win 1,000 races, which I achieved. I was the first woman in Canada to do so, that was my ambition."

She retired in 2012 and became a trainer and owner.

Villeneuve said she started reading about nationwide syndicates and how they are

becoming a "very popular thing."

"I thought why don't we, my partner and I, who's been involved in the business for many, many years, put together a syndicate on a very economical level where many people can join and enjoy the whole process of owning a race horse — experiencing the fun, the thrill of watching the horse run at very little cost," she said.

Villeneuve said she came up with the idea this past winter.

"The industry is kind of suf-

fering a little bit with declining attendance, and I thought this would be an excellent way to bring more people to the industry, where they can enjoy what they should be able to enjoy, the race horse."

Villeneuve said she floated the idea at the end of January on Facebook and the response has been "really positive."

"We have a lot of backers, people in the business, as well as people who have never been involved with racing at all. We need more people in the industry. I love the business, and it's been very good to me."

Villeneuve and Roxborough are looking to purchase a two- or three-year-old horse in training in Ocala, Fla., or at possible private sales in Canada.

"There is a possibility that we would claim something, depending on when we sell the shares," Villeneuve said.

She said it's not a money-making proposition for her or Roxborough. Villeneuve said they will both make a minimal salary, "but my hopes are that it will lead to more and more syndicates and more recognition."

"And maybe these people, once they have a good experience, will expand and want to buy a horse on their own. When these people come to the races, I'm sure they're going to bring their friends and family, so it's all going to multiply, I think."

"You never know, the horse may not ever make it to the races, but should this horse be successful, really successful, these people will tell their friends about what a good experience they've had, so I see it being a very positive thing."

Villeneuve said the intention is for the syndicated horse to be able to run at Woodbine, if it needs to run at Fort Erie, it will.

"I'll be training the horse, predominantly here at Fort Erie, but in the spring and fall at Woodbine when this is closed."

She said if a horse in which someone has purchased shares wins a race, they will get a percentage of their shareholdings.

"At 200 shares, you're not going to make a lot of money, but you can make your investment back, and you can make a little bit more money. But

more than anything, it is the whole experience. But if you were to buy more than one share, you have a bigger stake in the horse."

Villeneuve said one person who has already invested in the syndicate was a horse groom from Fort Erie.

"He'd been on the track his whole life, lived in Fort Erie his whole life, but could never afford to own a race horse," she said. "Now he can say that he owns a race horse. He was so excited, he was almost crying when he actually invested."

She said the syndicate may also be appealing to those who take part in corporate sports pools.

"They have football pools and hockey pools and that sort of thing in the office. Why not get together and put a few bucks and get a share of a race horse? We've had people buy them as gifts for people."

Villeneuve said the syndicate is having its first monthly meeting on Saturday, which is opening day at Woodbine.

For more information, visit [sportofqueensracing.com](http://sportofqueensracing.com).

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# Brock still being pressed on sexual violence issues

**BILL SAWCHUK**  
Postmedia Network

Activists at Brock University continue to push administration to change the way it responds to and educates the campus community about sexual violence.

"They need to step it up," student Carlissa Taylor said. "They have made commitments to us as student activists and sure as hell better follow through."

Students, faculty and support staff have raised concerns over the university's handling of a recent sexual harassment complaint. They believe their push is gaining momentum, Taylor said.

A former student came forward early last month saying she was told by Brock to keep quiet about an internal investigation that determined a professor gave her alcohol and tried to force himself on her sexually late one night in his office.

An open meeting of the sexual violence prevention



JULIE JOCSAK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Schmon Tower at Brock University.

task force was held on campus to discuss victim-led policy development, including panels of students, student groups, faculty and staff, and student activists.

Margot Francis, an associate professor of women and gender studies, said more than 60 people attended the meeting.

"The meeting was packed, and the student activists took centre stage and shifted the balance of power in terms of the next stages of the policy development process."

Taylor said she has heard from activists across the country.

"They see some progress we have made," she said. "This isn't just an isolated incident. People are feeling empowered to speak out and do something."

Kevin Cavanagh, Brock's director of communications and public affairs, reiterated that the university is indeed moving forward on this issue.

President Jack Lightstone was out of town and unavailable for comment.

But Cavanagh said Lightstone is committed to creating a task force to examine Brock's policies and procedures that deal with sexual harassment, sexual violence and unprofessional behaviour, involving students or employees.

"The task force will be comprised of students, staff, faculty and possibly members of the external community," Cavanagh said.

"It would hear and consider input from all across campus. Details of the mandate, composition and reporting timelines for the

task force will be completed and communicated to the Brock community before the end of April."

Lightstone has also said Brock will hire a new sexual violence response co-ordinator to work in concert with the human rights and equity officer and provide a central point of contact for all complaints about sexual violence and harassment. This role will include handling complaints and providing education and support to all members of the Brock community.

Taylor said she is pleased to see Brock addressing the problem, but there is more to be done.

Student leaders and administration members held a meeting March 24. "The university committed to more than they have put out there," Taylor said. "We sent our notes after the meeting to make sure we were all on the same page about commitments made."

"We told them if you are not going to commit publicly to these things, we are going to assume you have no intentions to follow through with them."

"We never did receive a response to that message from the senior administration, so that is problematic"

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MODELS SHOWN:  
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MODEL SHOWN  
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